

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AEMBASSY PARIS 8945

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, EB, GE, UK, US, FR, UR

SUBJECT: EAST BERLIN'S NINTH BEZIRK: MORE SUSPICIOUS NOISES

REF: USBERLIN 401

1. GDR CONTROLLED WEST BERLIN NEWSPAPER DIE WAHRHEIT FEBRUARY 8 REPORTED PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING OF WEST BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AFFAIRS AND ALL-BERLIN QUESTIONS, AT WHICH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GOTTSCHALK ASSERTED THAT PLANS FOR 9TH DISTRICT IN EAST BERLIN WOULD TOUCH UPON (AFFECT) LONDON PROTOCOLS (SEPTEMBER 12, 1944 ET SEQ--SEE REFTEL.) WAHRHEIT DENIED APPLICABILITY OF PROTOCOLS AND BLAMED ALLIES AND SENAT FOR POST-WAR BREAKDOWN OF FOUR POWER ADMINISTRATION OF GREATER BERLIN. CRUX OF ARGUMENT, HOWEVER, WAS CLAIM THAT "GDR IS SOVEREIGN AND CAN ENLARGE ITS CAPITAL AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY."

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2. WAHRHEIT PIECE IS FIRST PUBLIC SUGGESTION THAT AN "ENLARGEMENT" MAY BE INVOLVED IN CREATION OF 9TH DISTRICT. BERLIN TAGESSPIEGEL AND OTHER WEST BERLIN PAPERS ALSO REPORTED FEDERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING, BUT NOTED THAT IN PLANNING FOR A 9TH DISTRICT "A CHANGE OF THE BORDERS OF GREATER BERLIN IS EVIDENTLY TO BE AVOIDED." NONETHELESS, ACCORDING TO TAGESSPIEGEL,

SENAT WOULD ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIES
ON THIS MATTER.

3. ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS QUESTIONED CHANCELLERY
CHIEF HERZ ABOUT TAGESSPIEGEL ARTICLE DURING REGULARLY-
SCHEDULED MEETING WITH HIM ON FEBRUARY 8. (NOTE:
BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH OFFICERS INDICATED TO US
COLLEAGUE THAT THEIR MISSIONS WERE SOMEWHAT PUT OUT
BY TAGESSPIEGEL ARTICLE, PARTICULARLY AS HERZ WAS
QUOTED SO FREELY IN IT.) HERZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE
MEETING OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS USUALLY
CONFIDENTIAL, THIS PARTICULAR ITEM WAS UNCLASSIFIED.

HE ADMITTED THAT SENAT HOPED BY PUBLICIZING 9TH
DISTRICT ISSUE, IT WOULD SERVE AS REMINDER TO SOVIETS
AND GDR THAT UNILATERAL CHANGES IN GREATER BERLIN
BOUNDARIES ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH LONDON PROTOCOLS
AND QA. HOWEVER, HERZ ADDED THAT SENAT HAD NO
INFORMATION THAT GDR WAS PLANNING ANYTHING BUT RE-
STRUCTURING OF EXISTING DISTRICTS WITHIN PRESENT CITY
LIMITS OF EAST BERLIN. HERZ ALSO NOTED THAT SENAT SOME
TIME AGO HAD CONSIDERED SIMILAR PLAN TO RESTRUCTURE WEST
BERLIN DISTRICTS IN CONFORMITY WITH PRESENT-DAY DEMOGRAPHY,
BUT DROPPED PLAN BECAUSE OF QA CONSIDERATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WAHRHEIT ASSERTION THAT GDR
HAS THE RIGHT TO "ENLARGE" OR "EXPAND" ITS CAPITAL NEED
NOT BE READ SPECIFICALLY AS INTENTION TO INCORPORATE GDR
TERRITORY OUTSIDE OF GREATER BERLIN INTO 9TH DISTRICT
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(ADDING A DISTRICT, EVEN WITHOUT A CHANGE IN GREATER
BERLIN'S PHYSICAL SIZE, COULD BE CONSIDERED AN EXPANSION),
THERE REMAINS UNACCEPTABLE GDR PRETENSION THAT IT CAN
INCREASE THE SIZE OF GREATER BERLIN BY FIAT.

5. THE BRITISH, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE ALREADY RAISED THE
9TH DISTRICT QUESTION WITH THE SOVIETS. ON FEBRUARY 8
UK POLAD SPOKE WITH KOTULEV ON A BILATERAL MATTER, AND
IN HIS OWN WORDS: BEGIN 17593: IN CONCLUSION I NOTED PRESS
REPORTS THAT A 9TH BEZIRK MIGHT BE SET UP IN EAST BERLIN.
COULD KOTULEV CONFIRM OR DENY THESE REPORTS? KOTULEV
DECLINED TO DO EITHER, SAYING IT WAS A MATTER OF NO
SIGNIFICANCE WHETHER THE GDR CHOSE TO CREATE NEW BEZIRKE
OR NOT. I SAID I WAS JUST ASKING. SUCH MATTERS WERE
NATURALLY OF INTEREST TO US IN VIEW OF THE 1944 LONDON
PROTOCOLS WHICH WE HAD ALL SIGNED. END QUOTE. THE
BRITISH APPROACH OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT PRECLUDE A LATER
POLAD RETURN TO THE SUBJECT IN GREATER DETAIL. END
COMMENT. GEORGE

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